satisfied, but burning for revenge, hies

disable, and kill, and bench-warrant

accordingly, which three magistrates of

fendant was probably guilty of an as-

felony in the case, and the indictment

"thundering sound" to some, carried

and bench-warrant, though possibly of

no terrors to the justices in this case.

and were in reality a travesty and a

farce. And yet "Fair Trial" would

have B sent on to the County Court

without examination, to be tried on a

charge which should never have been

made and could never be sustained, the

the Commonwealth put to the heavy

expense of a prosecution in a court of

record simply to give the de-

fendant at the outside a few days

in jail, or impose a small fine, which

would, in all probability, never be col-

lected. This would be a fair trial, wouldn't it? 2. Another case: Two

brothers, A and B, incensed at an injury

done to a little brother, with a friend

seek out the aggressor, C-one of the

brothers demanding an apology, while

the others remain aside to prevent in-

terference. The apology is refused,

and a fight ensues between the two.

and, members of C's family coming out

to his assistance, the fight becomes

general, no weapons save fists being

being given or received on either side

and his family, fancying themselves

very much aggrieved, apply to

the County Court and the at-

torney for the Commonwealth with the

result: twelve indictments against

A., B., little brother, and friend-three

against each-all charging a felonious

and malicious beating, cutting, wound-

&c., and bench-warrants accordingly.

Three magistrates, upon a full hearing

of these warrants, dismissed them all.

Suppose these parties had been denied

the right of preliminary examination,

and there put upon trial. The result

would have doubtless been the same,

except that the Commonwealth would

have been some hundreds of dollars

I might go on, Mr. Editor, and multi-

oly instances where vexatious and

frivolous presecutions of this kind have

received their quietus at the hands of

some good, hard common-sensed county

magistrate, (and city, too, for that mat-

ter,) instead of being sent on to the

County or Corporation Court with no

other result, save to mulet both sides

in costs and expenses, but not because

the justice's judgment in a felony case was final, as "Fair Trial," from the

tone of his article, seems to think.

Certainly not, but because the attorney

for the Commonwealth, after his de-

cision, rarely deems it worth his while

The very instance "Fair Trial"

cites in illustration of his position is an

unfortunate one. The offence of feto-

nious assaults is, above all others, the

source and cause of the evil I complain

of and of unwarranted costs and ex-

pense to the Commonwealth. Every

one who has a bodily injury to complain

vince him and induce him to swear

that it was done "with intent to

maim, disfigure, disable, and kill."

As a consequence, this class of offences

affecting the person comprise a very

large percentage of the prosecutions oc-

curring in our courts to-day, consume

a very large portion of the time of our

courts and juries, and entail great ex-

pense upon the Commonwealth; and

vet how few, comparatively, result in

verdicts of confinement in the peniten-

tiary-how many in trifling verdicts of

from one-cent to five-dollar fines, or

from one to thirty days in jail! I've

no doubt Mr. Witt, the able Attorney

for the Commonwealth of Richmond,

could give us some very interesting in-

formation on this subject if called

was needed, in my judgment, to inter-pose and stop the abuse of its process

in reference to this very offence, either

straining in some measure or manner

the complaining party in his estimate

of the nature or extent of his grievances,

or the magistrate or attorney for the

Commonwealth in framing the com-

But saving of useless costs and ex-

penses is not by any means the greatest benefit afforded by the statute in ques-

tion. It, or something of its nature, is,

in my belief, almost if not entirely in-

dispensable to a just and impartial ad-

ministration of the criminal law. Has

not a man accused of crime a right to

some preparatory notice? Is it merci-

ful, is it just, to arrest him without

warning upon a bench-warrant charging

him with crime, and arraign him forth-

with upon the indictment which the law

declares shall be tried at the same term

at which found unless good cause be

shown for a continuance? The law

guarantees to every man accused of

crime the right to know the cause and

nature of his accusation and to face

defendant of all right to prelim-

inary examination, and what infor-

mation does he have on this point

prior to coming to trial? Nothing save

that afforded by a naked inspection of

the written charge in the indictment.

The law doesn't even require that the

names of the accusing witnesses shall

be written on it. What man in such a

position, be he ne'er so innocent, but

might well tremble for the consequences

when brought to trial? And yet, under

the condition of law "Fair Trial" (7)

argues for, a man might be indicted, ar

rested, arraigned, and tried in one day.

and if, upon arraignment, he pleaded for a little delay, I know of no ground

upon which he could obtain it as a mat-

ter of right save to demand a list of his

jurors and the witnesses against him,

and he would be allowed only a reason-

able time in which to examine these.

Very true, it might be said that no

court would force a defendant, just in-

dicted and arrested, into trial without

affording him time to prepare his de-

fence : and this may be true ; but when our dearest, most substantial rights

hang upon the mere discretion of a judge, we hold them by slender tenure indeed.

Counsel engaged in the defence of

accusers; and yet, deprive

plaint.

If ever the hand of the Legislature

to worry any further with the case.

ised, however, and nothing worse

blackeyes or bruised faces. C

perly dismissed. I say properly,

sault and; battery but

ABOUT LAND ASSESSMENTS. COUPONS, &c.

out Commissioners of the Revenue, and

To the Edstor of the Dispatch : rtook to point out in a recent ticle how unrestrained the assessors who determine and fix, every five are, the value of real estate as a basis r taxation. I showed that their decisions were not subject to revision in the interest of the public revenues; that their work was not supervised by any tribunal in behalf of the State and could not be called in question except by private individuals who may think too high or too low a valuation has been put upon their lands. The valuations of the assessors, however low they may be, however much too low, are to be taken for five years as the true taxable value of the true taxable value of lands. The commissioners of the perenue, who yearly thereafter to be governed by the valuations of the assessors, which the law says "shall be permanent and shall not be changed, except to allow the addition of the value of improvements, or a total or partial deduction of the value of such improvements." In making off his landoks the commissioner is required to add " the value of any building and enclosure not theretofore assessed, if found to be of the value of \$100 and spwards," and to add the value of all ew buildings " at their actual value at the time of assessment." He cannot natural decay or other causes, unless the building and enclosure "has been either wholly destroyed or decreased in value below \$100, or where the value of the building has been impaired by violence to the extent of \$100 or upwards"; but in these events he shall make proper deductions. Now, one would expect, under such requirements and restrictions as these, would show an increase, greater or less, from year to year, as the value of improvements was added to their land-books; and yet it appears from the table given in the Dispatch of September 13th last that there are at least twenty counties in which the land-book values are less in 1884 than they were in 1880 tin some cases many thousand less); and many other counties where the addition in four years amounts to but a few hundred dollars, where one would look for many thousands. I do not name these counties, because the figures of the Dispatch table may be in some instances incorrect. I will simply say, however, that Henrico, which shows an increase of taxable real values of

The fact is, the yearly land-books of the commissioners are sujected to no proper supervision. True they are required to be laid before the supervisors, but this Board is only directed to "compare each copy of the land-book with the land-book of the preceding (or every fifth) year with the books reby the land-assessor, with the records of the clerk's office when necessary, and with such transcripts, &c., from the records of other offices as the commissioner shall lay before them." They are not required to inquire dili-gently whether all improvements have been added at their "actual value," and what deductions have been made for losses, and whether properly made; and we suspect that in many cases the examination is at best perfunctory.

\$230,000 between 1880 and 1885, shows

a decrease of values of \$1,900 between

1880 and 1884, which indicates no im-

provements during those four years, or

at least more destructions than improve-

counties, and especially in the former, all real estate should be assessed hon-estly at its "cash value" in the manner now prescribed by law for ascer-taining said "cash value," and that all improvements should be added from year to year at their "actual value." Any departure anywhere from a uniform, unbending rule leads to all manner of injustice to the State, and to injustice and inequality of burden as between the counties. The arguments The arguments in favor of an invariable rule of assessment at "cash value," as determined by the law, are unanswerable. It fuls the requirement of the Constitution that "taxation shall be equal and uniform." If it should largely increase the taxable values of the State, as it would undoubtedly do-and we fear here is the rub-it would enable capital to seek our borders for investment in industrial enterprises. It would enlarge our school funds, and thus greatly improve our schools, which we all are, or at least pretend to be, heartily in favor of doing. Again: School funds are contributed by counties and cities according to property, and distributed according to nums, so that some cities and counties pay into the Treasury on this account greatly more than is ever returned to It would certainly go far to satisfy the richer counties and cities with this system if they know that the less wealthy counties did at least con-tribute dollar for dollar, according to heir means, to the Treasury ; which at present many of them are certainly not doing. This same remark is applicable also to the matter of "criminal charges," which in some of the coun-ties (as appears from the table lately laid before the House of Delegates) actually exceeded in the year 1885 the whole land and property tax which they paid into the Treasury.

Finally, the honest assessment of al-estate values is due to the owners of personal property, especially bonded property. There are a good many scople whose circumstances require them to be bondholders, and who are not "bloated bondholders," either, by a great deal. Why should such an one for instance, required to pay taxes \$5,000 in solvent bonds at their face the, when the owner of \$5,000 in holds his possessions at a valua-aay of \$2,500, which some goodured assessor has put upon it, and a taxes accordingly upon that par-valuation? This under-valuation ate is especially unjust to olders living in cities, where

bonds. Ac., and other personal property. We think the success of this effort would be very much promoted by requiring faithful valuations of real estate. The average man is quite reluctant to render a bond for taxation at its face value when his neighbor's real estate, which is far better security, is assessed at one half or two thirds of its value. Somehow he can't see the justice of it. Somehow he can't see the justice of it, and so maybe keeps quiet altogether about his bond. Honesty is undoubtedly the right thing and the best policy at all times and under all circumstances. Unfairness leads to unfairness, while honest dealing is promotive of honest dealing. Let our Legislaturefor the power and the duty are both theirs-insist upon honest land valuations. They can accomplish much in would, in the nature of things, lead to a more general disclosure of bonded property and other personal values. PRO BONO PUBLICO.

ty and Injustice.

To the Editor of the Dispatch : There is much in the present financial condition of Virghia which is neither commendable nor encouraging. The number of defaults which have occurred among the collectors of her revenues indicates a bad state of morals, while the confusion that is said to exist in some of her public offices, and the large accumulation of delinquent-land taxes, which many of the people are now protesting against the payment of, seems to proclaim very great looseness and neglect in the management of her affairs. will not pause to assign a reason for this lax state of things, lest I should offend some who honestly believe that the sovereign rights of the State require to be more carefully looked after just now than her sovereign duties.

But there is a matter of the largest importance to her welfare, second to none that could possibly enlist the wisdom and energy of her General Assembly, which I should like to bring to their attention. I refer to the land as- value the lands in their respective counsessments, which constitute the major portion of her taxable values, and which, as now ascertained, are unjust to the revenues of the State and operate unequally and unfairly as among the counties and as between the owners of real and personal property. Further on I shall speak of what the Constitution and the laws prescribe, but in the outset let us look at what is disclosed by the assessments of the last each man in his district "owes ten years: unto his lord," and then make In 1875 the land assessment

Total..... \$246,046,397 In 1880 we all know that a determined effort was made by the then dominant party, wherever they had the power, to make as small a show of values as was possible, accordingly-In 1880 the assessment of the \$170.338.924

\$234.262.951 | 101a| | \$234,2924 | A decrease in five years of \$11,773,446 |
| In 1855 the assessment of the counties was \$182,421,2 |
| That of the cities was \$0.535.4\$182.421.28 80.535.41;

But note: The city valuations increased between 1875 and 1880 by \$3,358,477, and further increased be tween 1880 and 1885 by \$16,601,386, making a total increase in ten years of \$19 959 863, while the valuation of the counties is still \$3,049,562 less than it To the Editor of the Dispatch :

was ten years ago.
Can any one believe that under the general improvement and development of the resources of our State in the last decade, consequent upon the building of railroads, the opening up of mines, and the better culture of lands, the real estate of the counties, if properly estimated, would appear to be less by three millions than it was ten years ago, Now, I sturdily maintain that all while that of the cities has, in the same lions, or about 33 per cent?

Let us look at the counties separately. The following, thirty-eight in number, show an increase over the values of 1875-to wit : Accomack, Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Buchanan, Campbell Charles City, Clarke, Craig, Elizabeth City, Fauquier, Frederick, Greensville, Halifax, Henrico, Henry, Isle of Wight, King and Queen, King William, Nanse-mond, New Kent, Northumberland, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Princess Anne, Pulaski, Rockingham, Russell, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Warren. Warwick, Westmoreland, Wise, and Wythe. All the others, sixty-two in number, show smaller valuations than in 1875.

The following counties, eighteen in number, show smaller valuations than in 1875 for in 1880-to wit: Bland, taxation for general purposes, which would be a great inducement to Gloucester, Grayson, Highland, Lancar ter, Lunenburg, Madison, Montgomery, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rappahannock, and York. The rest, eighty-two in number, show (with three exceptions) an increase, though in many cases very small, on the values of 1880.

Now, the counties in both these lists are from all portions of the State, and what is especially striking is that in both lists we find counties which we should have less expected to see there than others which do not appear. The fact is that whatever may cause surprise results not from any want of fair dealing on the part of the counties, nor even necessarily of their officers, but from the loose and unguarded manner in which assessments are made, and the fact that they are 'subjected to no examination, comparison, or supervision

of any kind on behalf of the State. Without meaning to be invidious, let us examine the returns from two or three of the counties. Let us take the prosperous county of Montgomery, in one of the most favored sections of the State: Its assessment in 1875 was \$2,819,833.77; in 1880 it was \$2,019,-863.84-showing a decrease of \$799,-969:93. In 1885 it was \$1,927,188.04, showing a further decrease of \$92,-675.80, and a total decrease since 1875 of \$892,645,72, or nearly 32 per cent. Another notable fact in this connection is that the commissioner's books of this lished in the Dispatch of September 13th last be correct) only \$508.41 credited to improvements in this county in four years, between 1880 and 1884. Can this by any possibility do justice to the fact? Pulaski, an adjoining county, increased in values between 1875 and 1880 in the sum of \$9,808, and still further increased in the last five years in the sum of \$147,866. Wythe also increased \$32,386 between 1875 and 1880, and further increased \$426,678 in the last five years. Roanoke, also adjoining Montgomery, shows an increase in each period of five years. Now consider the flourishing county

sent in 1875 was \$2,458,932. In 1880 it was 82,258,286, a decrease of 8200,-645. In 1885 it was \$2,247,456, a

st more faithfully for taxation all of which seventy-five miles have been constructed in the last ten years.

We think the success of this effort could be very much promoted by recould be very much promoted by recould be very much promoted by re-

But these details are tedious, and for like illustrations, which are plentifully

Why is it that such unfairness and

inequality occur in the land valuations

It certainly is not for lack of constitu-

commissioners. The Constitution en-

joins that in making assessments "no

land shall be assessed above or below its value," and the law prescribes that "the cash value of the lands, lots, and the improvements thereon shall be fixed by first ascertaining the value upon the usual credits in the neighborhood, and rebating legal interest when interest is not usually allowed on such credits or deferred payments.' This rule is very plain and sim-ple, but the fact is it is generally disregarded, and some two hundred assessors throughout the Commonwealth act each according to his own sweet will in modifying and departing from the standard of value which the law erects, thus making the measure of value about as variant and indeterminate as the measure of equity was said to be in the early days of that jurisdiction when it was supposed to be as uncertain as the alone. length of the Chancellor's feet. Hence what the taxable value of the lands in any given county shall be depends upon the uncontrolled pleasure of the assessors of that county, and, therefore, what revenue the State shall derive for the support of its government and its schools is for the asssessors to determine. The Legislature fixes the rate of tax, and its members are responsible to the people; the assessors fix the basis of values. which, in fact, determines the necessary rate of tax, and are responsible to nobody. The law does not provide that any one shall supervise or correct their books or equalize the taxes as among the counties. However low they may ties, it must stand as against the State, and as against all other counties and all other tax-payers. If an "unjust steward" gets into the position, (and we have heard of such outside of the Bible,) one who wants, perhaps, some other office, who wishes "to make for himself friends of the mammon of unrighteousness," all he has to do is to go around and ascertain how much a gratifying abatement therefrom. I repeat that, with reference to this all-important transaction, law makes no provision whereby undervaluations may be corrected at the instance of the State, and therefore the State may be deprived, without remedy of her just revenues, and the proper burdens which belong to one community of people may be imposed in part on another. The finding of an assessor can be corrected on the complaint of the individual land-owner, and in this

In another article I shall ask leave to pursue this subject and point out quences resulting from the uncertainties and from the lack of system and

supervision in our land-assessments.

What Is the Proper Remedy?

The legal maxim that "where there is a wrong there is a remedy " may find its application in considering the question now confronting us as to the proper remedy for the wrong inflicted on the State of Virginia by the recent "coupon" decisions of the Supreme There is a suggestion made editorially in the Dispatch of the 3d be tried by all means. The suggestion is that all taxes be made payable quarterly. But in order to make the experiment a success it should be done in connection with some better method than we now have of holding the county and city treasurers and other officers who have the collection of the public revenue to a stricter accountability for the faithful collection and prompt pay-ment of the taxes. No one who has paid any attention to this subject can have failed to see that a large number of our county treasurers conduct their offices not so much with reference to the public interest as to making themselves popular, and thus securing their own re-election. There is a large class of these officers who are notoriously and incurably incompetent. many of whom have deputies equally incompetent. The reason for this is to be found in the demoralizing effects, especially under the Mahone regime, of making county offices the reward of partisan political services. But when to incompetency is added want of integrity, besides an utter carelessness of the public interests, the case has become wellnigh hopeless, unless some means are resorted to of periodically looking into their operations. The old adage that " short settlements make long friends " is as true here as it is certainly true in mercantile and other business transactions; but some legislation may be necessary to secure and make efficient these short settlements on the part of county treasurers and other officers who have the collection of the public revenue. A bill or resolution of inquiry has been presented to the General Assembly which, I think, would go far to correct the existing evil-viz., the appointment of a board treasurers' and clerks' offices 'all over the State, who will be empowered to make a searching examination of their books and see how far these officers are discharging their duty faithfully, and make frequent reports to the Governor and First Auditor of the result of such examinations. This board should be appointed by the Governor, to whom they will be immediately responsible, and should be composed of men who are good

allowed the papers and business of their offices to get into a state of deplorable confusion.

The foregoing is offered as in some sort an enforcement of your views as to a proper remedy and as likely to produce good results in both directions not only in dealing with the coupon question, but in securing a prompter ollection of the taxes and other dues to the Commonwealth. OBSERVER.

accountants and of large experience,

who will do the work thoroughly and

promptly. Especially is such experience required in the examination of the

clerks' offices, many of which have fallen

into the hands of persons who are ut-

terly incompetent, and who have

To the Editor of the Dispatch :

Some two weeks since I wrote an article on the University of Virginia under the signature of "Alumnus," which was published in the Dispatch, and to which "One of the Board of Visitors" wrote what I presume he thought was a raply. But inasmuch as it happened to be no reply at all to what I had said, I concluded to let the matter rest as as I was concerned.

deem it due to myself to say that I am not the author of this last-named article; that I have no knowledge when the property of the property o

is, and am in nowise responsible for it.

Persons who have read the letter of "One of the Board," and had not read | to the County Court, pours the tale of mine, would naturally conclude that I his wrongs into the ever-open ear of had made a furious onslaught both on the attorney for the Commonwealth the faculty and the Board of Visitors, with the result: an indictment tional prevision or legal enactment prescribing the duties of assessors and when the fact is that I had assailed neither the one nor the other. of the Board" need not have troubled himself to defend Professors Minor and Cabell. They need no defence. I have known these gentlemen, man and boy, some fifty years, and if it will afford any pleasure to "One of the Board" to hear it, I desire to say that nothing he or I can say or do will add to or detract from the high reputation they have justly obtained as able and learned professors, and as ornaments of the

chairs so well filled by them. As to the suggestion of "One of the Board" that I tackle Colonel Venable on "mixed-mathematics." I desire to say that when I am ready to make the onslaught. I will invite him to go along with me. If he and I together should be worsted in the tussle, then I think it would be wise to let the Colonel

The truth is, Mr. Editor, that I assailed no one in my letter. I made no fling at the faculty, either merited or unmerited. My chief object in writing it was to place before the public the opinion of Mr. Jefferson as to the qualifications of those who are called to professorships in the University; and, secondly, to make such suggestions as I thought might possibly aid the legislative committee in making the inquiry with which they had been charged. have neither retraction nor apology to make for anything contained in my letter. Vestigia nulla retrorsum. I take no steps backward.

That there may be no mistake as to the authorship, I sign myself Yours truly, THOMAS WOOD.

Charlottesville, February 7, 1886.

Preliminary Examinations. To the Editor of the Disnatch .

Will you kindly allow me space in to "Fair Trial," whose very severe philippic upon the law of examinations before magistrates is found on the 24 page of your issue of the 7th instant?

For years, now, I have seen the practical operation of the statute in cases wherein I have time and again appeared | but had been taken to the County Court both for the Commonwealth and defence, and I trust, therefore, that I may at least claim to speak from an unpre-judiced point of view when I assert that an unqualified repeal of the law against which "Fair Trial" inveighs would be, in my judgment, a misfortune both to the Commonwealth and to prisoners charged with crime, and I shall endeavor to state my reasons for so thinking as briefly as possible. It goes without saying, I think, that

"Fair Trial's" assault upon the Vir-

ginia justice, the officer appointed by law to execute the statute, whether founded or unfounded, is no argument against the justice or propriety of the law assailed. If the justices of "Fair Trial's " county are either ignorant or corrupt in the discharge of the duties of their offices, he has his remedy, and a very plain one it is. But it would be a matter of deep regret if a law just and commendable in itself should be repealed simply because one or more of those appointed to execute it had failed in the proper performance of their duty. Through ignorance or carelessness, I employ a quack to set a fractured and, as a result, am halt for life; must the whole science of nowadays deems it felonious and instant which strikes me favorably, of surgery be swept away, obliterated, malicious, and, while still smarting unand if, as you say, it is entirely practi-as a consequence? Heaven forbid! der a sense of the injury, it requires cable, it seems to me that it ought to Badly-executed laws I've always been little stretch of the imagination to contaught to consider better than no laws at all; but in this age, when it is so easy to rid the Commonwealth of an ignorant or incompetent officer, it sounds somewhat absurd-doesn't it to plead for the repeal of a law on the ground of its being badly executed. And yet this is the whole burden of "Fair Trial's" cry. Not one legiti-mate argument, so far as I can observe, does he advance in support of his posi-

> The law is, in my judgment, a commendable one-a benefit both to the Commonwealth and the prisoner.

One would certainly gather from "Fair Trial's" article that he held a very high and exalted opinion of the dignity and importance of the grand jury and of the gravity of its presentment, and of the utter insignificance of the trial and judgment by a justice as compared with it. I am rather disposed to differ with him here; certainly as to the comparative merits of the two as a correct test of guilt or innocence. The grand jury is perhaps essentially, from its pature, a partisan body. They hear only one side of a case, and that always the side of guilt. How often do you hear judges instruct grand juries that it is not their province to hear excusatory testimony, nor to determine the question of guilt or innocence save to this extent: Whether there is reason to believe that a crime has been committed and reason to charge the prisoner with its Which, then, is the more competent to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner, the grand jury, knowing virtually nothing of law, with only the Commonwealth's witnesses before them, and assisted only by the attorney for the Commonwealth, or the justice, who is certainly presumed to be acquainted with the law to some extent at least, but who, in any event, has the assistance generally of counsel on both sides, and an honest, fair presentation of the case? I will stake my judgment on the justice every time. He may sometimes err, it is true-none of us are infallible for that matter-but my experience has convinced me that, with the superior lights before him, he will oftener be found in the right than the grand jury.

But this is not all. Of the prosecutions originating in the grand-jury room I believe nearly, if not fully, one half result finally in acquittal. nately our grand juries are often made the weapons of malice or revenge; often, too, trivial prosecutions originate there, which might, and doubtless would in many instances, be disposed of by a justice by the imposition of a small fine or a few days in jail, and with minimum expense to the Commonwealth.

And yet "Fair Trial" would have the defendants in such cases denied the right of preliminary examination before a magistrate, where, if innocent, they might, with least expense and annoyance to themselves and to the Commonwealth, establish the fact and secure their honorable discharge; but would have the Commonwealth and county or city put to the additional costs and expense an a trial in the county or corporation court. "Fair Trial" cites an instance, which he terms an "outrageous" one, to

gist and force of the charge disclosed, and here first does the defendant meet his accusers and learn who they are. somewhat the worst of it, but no ap-parent damage to either being done save the gash referred to. A there-Indeed, what with the safeguar against subornation and perjury affordrant the justice on hearing dismissed, dividing the costs equally between ed by the preliminary exami the opportunity for contradiction or impeachment, should witnesses attempt complainant and defendant. A, not to vary in their statements, to say nothing of the assistance rendered to counsel in determining and properly directing the line of defence, it is not easy, in my judgment, to imagine a right secured to the prisoner of more real and against B for a felonious and substantial good. It should rank equal malicious assault, and wounding, with intent to maim, disfigure, with the rights of jeopardy and jury trial themselves, although unfortunately it does not; but how any one ever en the county, on a full hearing, very progaged in the defence of criminal prosecutions, as "Fair Trial" says he has Editor, although, technically, the debeen, can possibly see any "danger"

to conceive. View it in what light I may, Mr. Editor, in its relation to the best interests either of the Commonwealth or the accused, I feel constrained to say that, in my judgment, a repeal of the law in question would be most heartily to be deplored, and I trust the honorable members of the Legislature may at least pause and maturely consider be fore laying the axe at the root of this defendant harassed and annoyed, and | tree. I began this article, Mr. Editor, with

or "folly " in such a law, I am unable

the immediate desire of speaking in de fence of the law assailed by "Fair Trial," but I cannot close it without, by your permission, saying that I trustnay, am fully convinced-that justices are in the main as harsh as they are undeserved. That they are not judges is true, but neither are they paid as judges; they are not attorneys for the Commonwealth, but neither do they receive the fees and emoluments of this office; they are not lawyers, but they do not profess to be; but in my practice at least they have not certainly, as a class, impressed themselves upon me either as "contemptible demagogues " or " little bits of partisan cross-roads politicians,' and it seems rather a reflection upon the people whose servant " Fair Trial states himself to be that they should elect such men to hold their offices after having elected "Fair Trial" as their attorney for the Commonwealth.

A poorly-thanked, poorly-paid indi vidual is the Virginia justice, and yet the office is as ancient and honorable as any in the gift of the people. ing, &c., with intent to maim. distigure,

Craving your pardon for having trespassed at such length, Mr. Editor, I am, very respectfully, ATTORNEY FOR THE

COMMONWEALTH.

Contemplated Provision by Congress for Experiment Stations at the State

went there to appear before the Com-

Agricuttural Colleges. President Adams has returned from an important trip to Washington. He

mittee on Agriculture in the interest of a bill which will greatly strengthen the argricultural department in the University. He gives the following de tails in regard to the matter : A bill is before Congress proposing to give \$15,-000 per year to the agricultural colleges established under the Morrill ac of 1862, and for publishing the result of those stations. The feeling is that experiments are constantly carried on at the agricultural colleges, the result of which ought to be systematically made known to the publie; and a bill providing for the means of having these results made known was introduced in the last Congress, was reported upon favorably by the swamped in the multitude of business at the end of the session. Another bill substantially identical with the former bill has been introduced in the present Congress and is now under consideration with the Committee on Agriculture. On Thursday last this committee gave a hearing to the friends of the measure. Among those who dent Adams, of the University: President Willetts, of Michigan Agricultural College : President Atherton, of Pennsylvania; Professor Cooke, o New Jersey, and Professor Rynders, of Ohio. These addresses were considered so important by the committee that they were stenographically reported and will be embodied in the report of the committee to Congress. It is expected that the committee will report unanimously in favor of the passage of the bill Should it pass the House of Representatives and the Senate and become a law it will add \$15,000 per year to the working ability of the University. The bill requires the appointment of a director of the experiment station and such subordinates as are necessary to carry on the work efficiently. friends of the measure believe that it will add immensely to the means for agricultural work done at the leading colleges in this country .- Ithica N. Y.

and its laws, as well as the enormous and unjustifiable expense, it is, I think, (This includes Blacksburg, Va., of by enlarging the jurisdiction of the magistrate, lowering its grade, or re-

AS THEY CANNOT POSSIBLY make a porous plaster having any hing like the medicinal qualities of Ben on's, the camp-followers of the pharma cutical profession produce tons of worth

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FOR SALE BY ALL NEWSDEALERS. CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY. Bass Fishing in the Shenandeah, Hinstrated, A. E. Richards.

Hass Fronting and A. E. Richards, III.
Unier the Magnolias.
III.
William H. Seward on Reconstruction.
Charles Gayarre. Drifting. The Story of Black Dan. Louis Pendleton. The Story of Back Pan. Louis tendevon.

VI.

Liddell's Record of the War, with Portrait

St. John R. Liddell.

VII.

Robert Lee. Paul Hamilton Hayne.

VIII.

My Recollections of R. E. Lee.
With Portrait. Alexander H. Stephens.
IX.
Poetry and Criticiem. Richard W. Knott. A Birds Eye View. XI. Henry W. Austin. Bragg in Kentucky XII. Bragg in Read XII.

City Building in the South Will Wallace Harney.

XIII.

XIII.

Third Day at Gettysburg. W. II. Swallow.

XIV.

At Criticism.

Comment and The Editor's Table. Salmagundi. [ja 31-8u4t]

STORAGE.

BLANCHARD'S WAREHOUSE. VIRGINIA STREET, ON REASONABLE TERMS [fo 7-Soath-st]

INSERANCE STATEMENTS. IPPRISHED BY AUTRORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR VISITE

GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE BIST CEMBER, 1885, OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE GUARA CEMBER, 1885, OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE GUARA PANY OF NORTH AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY, ORGANI THE LAWS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, MADE TO THE FUELIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA TO AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATING THE INSURANCE COMPANIES, APPROVED FEBRUARY 22, 1878.

THE OLDEST AND LARGEST GUARANTEE COMPANY IN AMERICA

Name of the company in full—THE GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AVEILIBRE OF principal office of said company—157 ST. JAMES STREET, MANY OF CHARACTER OF THE COMPANY (whether fire, fire and marine, or marine of the Company (whether fire, fire and marine, or marine of the Company (whether fire, fire and marine, or marine of the Character of the Company (whether fire, fire and marine, or marine of the Character of the Character of the Company (whether fire and marine, or marine of the Character of the

Vice-Tresion-1908. GHANT.
Accounts nt-Robert Kerr.
Organized and incorporated-2b August, 1851.
Commenced business-April. 1872.
Name of the General Agent in Virginia-William II Pleasants.
Residence of the General Agent in Virginia-1104/2 Main Starkey.

I. CAPITAL.

The assets of the said company, and a detailed statement of how a The assets of the said company, and a declared same are invested:
Loans on paid-up life policy.
Loans on mortgages on real estate.

Account of Stocks, Bonies, and Treasuray-Notes of the United State and of This State and of Office States, and of This State and of Office States, and of This State and of Office States, and of This State and Office States and Honors of Incorporated Cities in This State, and of Alberton Stocks and Honors Owned Assolutely by the United States.

Montreal Corporation stock... Montreal Harbor tonds... Montreal Warehousing bonds 46.000 00 7.344 75

antreal Harbor tonds.
mitreal Warehoustieg bonds.
ctoria (B. C.) Water-Works bonds.
milnion of Canada stock.
ke Champ'ain and St. Lawrenes Junction Rati-Canada Central Rallway bonds. Province of Quebec bonds... City of Toronto bonds United States Government 4)s per cent, bonds ity of Bichmond, Va., bonds. Total parand market value, carried out at marke

Cash in company's principal office
(ash belonging to the company deposited in bank (name bank): Bank
Montreat, Montreat, 223.000.25; Bank of Montreat, Ottawa \$2.827.8
Bank of Montreat, Chicago \$15.796.66; with John Paton & Co. New
York \$7.210.89; Merchants National Bank Richmond, Va., \$2.20-22
bank of Kentucky Louisville Ky., \$1.579.75; Commercial National
Bank, Nashville, Tenn., \$3.662.07; First National Bank, Nashville, Tenn.
\$2.648.42; St. Louis National Bank, St. Louis, Mo., \$2.74; Continenta
Bank, St. Louis, Mo., \$2.844.45.
Interest due and accused on stocks not included in "market value"
trees premiums in course of collection not more than three months due
Bills receivable, secured.
All other property belonging to the company—viz., furniture, including safes

The gross amount of all the assets of the company

Aggregate amount of all the assets of the company, stated at their

Total gross amount of claims for losses \$19.0ds 65

Net amount of unraid losses
Gross premiums received and receivable upon all unexpired risks
imming me what is less from date of policy, \$188,342.40; unearned premiums, 50 per cent 594.171.20

Total unearned premiums as computed above.
Internal accused for salaries, rent, advertising, and for agency and other uns-

Integral accuracy for salaries, rent, advertising and for agency and some anse-cellaneous expenses.

All other demands against, the company absolute and continuent, due and to become due, admitted and contested-viz. commissions, brokerage, and other charges due and to become due to agents and brokers on pra-mitums paid and in course of collection, \$1.349.16.

Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and not surplus Joint stock capital actually paid up in cash surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities

Aggregate amount of all liabilities, including paid-up capital stock and

Entire premiums collected in 1885
Deduct reinsurance rebate, and return premiums
Sel cash actually received for premiums carried of
Exceived for interest on bonds and stocks
Income from all other sources—viz.:
(James recovered)

V. EXPENDITURES. Tile expenditures of said company, giving a detaile t statsment of th

cross amount actually paid for losses, including \$11,594.61-losses occurring in previous years
Net amount paid during the year for losses
Dividends actually paid stockholders

Paid for commissions and brokerage... Paid for salaries, fees, and all other charges of officers, clerks, agents, and a other employees.
Paid for State, national, and local taxes in this and other States.
Laid for forniture.

Aggregate amount of actual expenses during the year

PLEASANTS & CO...

General Agents,

1104 1-2 MAIN STREET, RICHMOND. fe 14 Sm. Tust1

For sale by all druggats. I

is useful to doctor and patterned in the apartment il di-tendants as well as the s-every instance in which its

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For sale by druggists. Proce to

other, or inclose four cents of for particulars in letter of the same paper. CHICHESTER OC., 2513 Madison Square Pa. At druggists. Trade of the Thornbury & Ramos. 10 14 14 15 14

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CHESTER'S ENGLISH and only genuine. Safe and ware of worthless initiations ble to ladies. Ask your dres CHESTER'S ENGLISH.

\$15,000 TO LOAN AT 6 PER COUGHS—COLDS. Charges moderate. Real estate only QUARLES & MOUREDY. fe 13 31 QUARLES & MOUREDY. Why not arrest your

\$2,000 TO LOAN ON CITY before it has developed in the strange at a new By using PURPELL LADITA cent. for one year or longer. H. SELDON TAYLOR, fe 12-31 Eleventh and Bank streets.

To the Holders of the 8 Per Cent. Water Bonds bonds at the Treasurer's office, or at the Farmers', National Hank of said town, for payment on the 1st DAY OF APHIL 18ss, the time having expired on that day when by the ferms of said bonds the said town has the right to redgen same.

R. McCLELLAND, fe 10-codet , Town Treasurer.

MONEY TO LEND UPON REAL ES-TATE OR COLLATERAL SECURITY CITY AND COUNTRY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE. DEEDS WRITTEN AND ACKNOWLEDG MENTS TAKEN,

MENTS TAKEN,
MENTS TAKEN,
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Apply for Vicenia Land Guide.
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Real Estate Agent.
Auctioneer. and Stoker.
Ja 31-cod3m 1005 Bank street.

TO LEND,

\$250, \$380, \$1.500, \$4.000, \$4.000, \$6.000, \$4.000, \$4.000, \$4.000, \$4.000, \$4.000, \$1.714, \$4.000, \$1.714, \$4.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1.000, \$1

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BRICKS AND BRICK-YARD FOR SALE.—I hold for sale privately—

1. A BRICK-YARD in Cuarles City county, near flarden's whart, containing about SINTEEN ACRES of the very best datick and TERRA-COTTA CLAY. This property is immediately on the dames river; has an excellent wharf, in good repair, with a couple-timek traction trainway from the clamps to the wharf; a store hones and all increasing shantles, sheds, e.e., a twenty-five horse power boller and ateam left fools and all other appliances to make 5,000,000 pricks a year.

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The lifle to the property win be discresubstactory.

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suggresste to about 700,000 in number, overprising stocks, payings, and building brick.
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Richmond, and to me, at Lynchburg Va.

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